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PATENT APPLICATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10991022-8

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Craig D. Sunada et al.

Application No.: 10/016,746

Filing Date: Oct. 30, 2001

Title: INNER PAPER GUIDE FOR MEDIA SHAPE CONTROL IN A PRINTER

Confirmation Number: 7701

Examiner: Kevin D. Williams

Group Art Unit: 2854

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

SEP -4 2003

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR RESPONSE/AMENDMENT

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is/are the following in the above-identified application:

- (X) Response/Amendment () Petition to extend time to respond
() New fee as calculated below () Supplemental Declaration
(X) No additional fee (Address envelope to "Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment")
() Other: _____ (fee \$ _____)

| CLAIMS AS AMENDED BY OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY | | | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| (1) FOR | (2) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT | (3) NUMBER EXTRA | (4) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR | (5) PRESENT EXTRA | (6) RATE | (7) ADDITIONAL FEES |
| TOTAL CLAIMS | 13 | MINUS | 26 | = 0 | X \$18 | \$ 0 |
| INDEP. CLAIMS | 2 | MINUS | 3 | = 0 | X \$84 | \$ 0 |
| [] FIRST PRESENTATION OF A MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM: | | | | | + \$280 | \$ 0 |
| EXTENSION FEE | 1ST MONTH \$110.00 | 2ND MONTH \$410.00 | 3RD MONTH \$930.00 | 4TH MONTH \$1450.00 | | \$ 0 |
| OTHER FEES | | | | | | \$ |
| TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT | | | | | | \$ 0 |

Charge \$ 0 to Deposit Account 08-2025. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.21 inclusive, and any other sections in Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations that may regulate fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date of Deposit: August 28, 2003

Typed Name: Steven E. Dicke

Signature: Steven E. Dicke

Respectfully submitted,

Craig D. Sunada et al.

By Steven E. Dicke

Steven E. Dicke

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 38,431

Date: August 28, 2003

#11/
Request
Recons
w/att
9-10-03
D. Spruell

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
Examining Group Number 2854

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | |
|-------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Applicant: | Craig D. Sunada et al. | Examiner: Kevin D. Williams |
| Serial No.: | 10/016,746 | Group Art Unit: 2854 |
| Filed: | October 30, 2001 | Docket No.: 10991022-8 |
| Title: | INNER PAPER GUIDE FOR MEDIA SHAPE CONTROL IN A PRINTER | |

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Dear Sir/Madam:

This Response is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed June 30, 2003. Claims 14-26 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Saikawa U.S. Patent No. 6,168,270 ("Saikawa"), which relates to a sheet conveying force adjustment system. Independent claim 14 recites a media handling system including a pick roller structure, a drive roller structure, a media path extending between the pick roller structure and the drive roller structure, a first guide structure, and a second guide structure. The first guide structure is positioned along a first longitudinal edge of the media path and provides a first media guide surface above the sheet passing along the media path. The second guide structure is positioned along a second longitudinal edge of the media path and provides a second media guide surface below the sheet passing along the media path. The media path between the first guide structure and the second guide structure has a media entrance adjacent the pick roller structure. The first and second guide surfaces are positioned such that a distance between the first and second guide surfaces constrains the movement of the trailing edge of the media sheet as the trailing edges leaves the pick roller structure. Applicants submit that the Saikawa reference fails to teach or otherwise suggest such limitations.

In particular, Saikawa fails to teach a media path having a media entrance adjacent the pick roller structure as recited in independent claim 14. As illustrated in Figure 7, the Saikawa reference discloses a recording apparatus 2 including a sheet supply unit 110 and a conveyor unit 140. Sheet supply unit 110 holds recording sheets P to be picked by a sheet